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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

A NEW SCIENCE AT THE FAIR.

ANTHROPOLOGY is a new science in America, although for thirty years it has attracted considerable attention in Europe. In order to show its development in the United States, Department "M" of the World's Columbian Exposition was established, and Prof. Frederick W. Putnam, Director of the Peabody Museum, one of the foremost anthropologists in the country, was appointed chief.

The Department recognizes three main divisions of the subject: Physical Anthropology and Sociology, Ethnology, Archæology. These seem at first sight dry and uninteresting to the general reader. Recognizing this, the exhibit has been so managed that all will be pleased. The Indian villages are near the building, the reproduction of gates, statues, bas-reliefs, and hieroglyphics from ancient Maya cities of Yucatan are directly in front; the costumes and objects illustrating the customs of both living and extinct peoples are within.

Physical anthropology is of more importance to men and women of to-day than either of the other divisions given above. It deals with the present and the past. Many subdivisions might be mentioned, but suffice it to refer to several of the more important—the study of the human body and its skeleton (the cranium in particular)—the physical peculiarities of different tribes compared—the practice of deforming the skull in infancy, etc.

Sociology compares religions, studies folk lore, traditions and superstitions. It deals with society and the mind. At the annual meetings of the American Folk Lore Society many papers are read upon sociology of more than usual interest. Myths have been traced from one nation to another around the whole world.

Criminal anthropology is attracting much attention at present. Not many years ago Lombroso, the great Italian anthropologist, advanced the opinion that crime was the result of disease—that criminals were born—that crime was hereditary. He instituted a series of measurements, which are observed in all large cities and by prison officials, whereby criminals may be identified by more certain proof than by photography. Men have investigated the thoughts and actions of barbarous tribes of one part of the world, and then compared notes with others who studied among savages in other regions. All this study of the mind, of both savage and civilized man, has been largely conducted under the auspices of anthropological societies. In Paris, London, Berlin, Washington and New York are societies whose members are devoted to research.

In Ethnology proper, in both the Government exhibit and Department

"M," the houses, implements, ornaments, utensils, and costumes of savage and barbarous people are truly shown. A series of groups has been constructed representing the old skin tepees of several Plains tribes. The figures are of plaster and show the facial characteristics of each tribe remarkably well. The scenes, which represent children at play, women dressing hides, hunters cutting up a deer, are strikingly life-like, and I can truly say that at no former exposition has been exhibited their equal.

Another display illustrates the manufacture of stone implements. The specimens are in cases, and above each case is a series of photographs and maps showing the various stages in the process of making the implement, and also the quarries from which the stone was obtained.

It is very encouraging to those who have the welfare of this new science at heart to observe the character of the work now being done in the United States. Thirty years ago travellers among the tribes of the West took brief notes, made a few sketches or paintings, and gathered up a collection of gewgaws and trinkets, published books, and gave their cabinets to museums. Then there were no great linguistic maps; no one worked for years on a bibliography of Siouzan tongues; nobody spent several thousands of dollars in a single season's exploration of Ohio Valley mounds and village sites; and, as for criminal and physical anthropology, they were not dreamed of.

What awakened the present prevailing interest? The story is a long one, but I will make it as brief as possible. Fifty years ago, at St. Acheul, near Paris, there lived a man named Boucher de Perthes, whose neighbors said he was crazy. In the early fifties he published a book which was destined to raise a hub-bub in scientific circles and among the clergy. He claimed to find in early quaternary gravels flint implements made and used by an ape-like man. He also found associated with them the bones of extinct animals. For a few years the world laughed, and Boucher de Perthes went quietly about finding the implements. In the latter part of the fifties two Englishmen went to France and helped De Perthes in his investigations. They were both good geologists, and became convinced of the truth and importance of the Frenchman's claim. Supported by men of unquestioned ability, an interest on the part of scientific men was awakened, and similar finds were made all over western Europe. Before his death De Perthes saw, with great satisfaction, quaternary man fully established.

From France the news of the discoveries spread over the world—men became interested in prehistoric times; and caverns, rock shelters and terraces were assiduously searched for evidences. To-day Europe can divide her quaternary man into several epochs, bring him through polished stone, bronze and iron ages, to our present age of steel.

Men naturally turned their attention to kindred studies. Some considered living savages, read about them, dwelt with them. Others studied the wretched, the superstitious, or the peculiar among ourselves. And so the new science of anthropology was established, and given a dignified and important place among the other sciences.

The investigators in prehistoric Archæology have given food for thought to the clergy and to the student, and have furnished interesting data to the general reader. They have filled in the links in the chain of Egyptian history; they have told the Bible student all about the primitive occupations of Palestine, the adoration of the sun, the worship of the serpent and of Baäl. They have given men a pre-Columbian history of Mexico, of Yucatan, of Oceanic Island tribes and of our own Mississippi

Valley. Their work in the light of modern science is critical, thorough and ceaseless. The savants have penetrated every corner of the globe, and their literature embodies upwards of 20,000 volumes in many languages.

The Smithsonian Institution has faithfully explored, collected and published concerning the ancient remains within the limits of this country. No matter what may be said by jealous curators of smaller museums its collections stand foremost in size and importance. Second are those gathered by Department "M" of the Fair. Here is represented the pre-Columbian life of every tribe of size, from the most wretched Eastern savages, whose oyster shell mounds are so numerous along the Atlantic Coast, to the village sites of the Pacific tribes. From the Ohio Valley there is a great collection. Much has been written concerning the "Mound Builders" and their state of culture. Some have maintained them to have been highly civilized; others have said they were but intelligent savages. All the museums of the Central States are filled with relics from their burial places. The Chief of the Department desired to do away with the prevailing erroneous impression concerning mound-building tribes. He wished to make an extensive exhibit to illustrate the life of the Mississippi Valley tribes as it was. He appointed me as an assistant and told me to find the largest and most promising village and burial site of pre-Columbian times, in the Ohio Valley, and to dig over the whole of it. Accordingly a survey located upon the North Fork of Paint Creek, in Ross County, Ohio. It comprised a good anatomist and artist and several subordinates. There were at this place (the Hopewell Farm) twenty earth mounds of various sizes and two village sites. The group was surrounded by an embankment some four feet in height. Originally the wall stood at an altitude of eight feet. The number of acres enclosed were one hundred and ten. During the course of the explorations we gathered the largest collection ever taken from a mound group. It shed a flood of light upon the primitive occupations of Ohio.

The exhibit includes the concessions of foreign museums. One of the largest displays is that from Peru. The collection of bronze, copper, gold and silver is especially complete. In pottery there is a great variety, varying from minute funeral urns to large jars, five feet high. Most of the pottery is in effigy. The human face sculptures are not grotesque as are those of the Aztecs, but faithfully portray the features of the Peruvians. Thus the pottery is of paramount importance. The mummies comprise three hundred persons. They do not in any way resemble those of Egypt. Those who see the exhibits of Department "M" will better understand the importance and the interest of this new study. It is to be hoped that Americans will take more interest in anthropology. Those who are in the field or in the museum have much to do; they need co-laborers. To the man of means the science offers a pleasant and profitable occupation. He can aid the explorers, contribute to the support of a museum or help a worthy investigator publish the result of his observations. In return for his outlay he receives the commendation of intelligent people, and the assurance that he has taught the world something new concerning man and his works.

WARREN K. MOOREHEAD.

CO-EDUCATION IN THE WEST.

It is, perhaps, difficult for persons living in the Eastern States, where the admission of women to men's colleges is an innovation and a hard won privilege, to appreciate the absolutely matter-of-course way in which co-